



**STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations**

News For Immediate Release

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ALABAMA POSTS 6.0 PERCENT AUGUST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 15, 2004 With an increase in the civilian labor force of 2,300 persons, Alabama's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose to 6.0 percent in August.

"New entrants into the state's labor force, as well as Alabamians re-entering the labor force, may be significant factors in the jobless rate rising from 5.7 percent in July to 6.0 percent in August," says Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. "As the economy improves, it's not unusual to see more people looking for jobs who were formally discouraged."

2004 ALABAMA JOBLESS RATES

January	6.0 %
February	5.6 %
March	5.9 %
April	5.8 %
May	5.9 %
June	5.3 %
July	5.7 %
<u>August</u>	<u>6.0%</u>
Average	5.8 %

Alabama posted a year-ago August 2003 unemployment rate of 5.8 percent. The latest unemployment rate of 6.0 percent represents 130,500 unemployed Alabamians, compared to 122,500 in July and 126,200 in August 2003. The comparable national unemployment rate for August is 5.4 percent, below July's rate of 5.5 percent and the August 2003 rate of 6.1 percent.

Over the past year, there was a net gain of 7,800 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in trade (retail and wholesale), transportation, and utilities (+3,800); construction (+2,900); professional and business services (+2,300); educational and health services (+1,800); and government (+1,300). Over the year, the manufacturing sector lost 1,500 jobs and the information sector lost 1,200 jobs.

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" and follow prompts.